YOUTH INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

General Assembly recommends world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond

In its resolution 45/103 of 14 December 1990, on the policies and programmes involving youth, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond. The Assembly requested that such action should be taken in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations, and in consultation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It further requested the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly in 1991.

Priority youth-related projects of the United Nations system

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote and monitor, by using the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as a focal point, the inclusion of youth-related projects and activities in the programmes of the United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, specifically on such themes as communication, health, malnutrition, poverty, housing, culture, youth employment, illiteracy, juvenile delinquency, education and leisure-time activities, drug abuse, and the environment.

Special plenary meeting and review and appraisal

As 1995 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace (IYY), the General Assembly decided to devote a plenary meeting at its fiftieth session to youth questions. The Assembly emphasized the need for a review and appraisal of the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, which it had endorsed in resolution 40/14 and, on the basis of the evaluation, the preparation of a global youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, with a target orientation and within a specific time-frame.

National and regional youth programmes of action

All Member States were invited by the Assembly to consider preparing a national plan of action based on an

The General Assembly in session.

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analytical national evaluation of the situation and the needs of youth. The Assembly also requested the regional commissions of the United Nations, as appropriate, together with regional youth and youth-serving organizations, to undertake a comprehensive review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the region since 1985 and to propose draft regional youth programmes of action towards the year 2000 and beyond.

Channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations

The General Assembly called upon youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations at the national, regional and international levels to continue to act as channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations and, especially, to contribute to the preparations for the tenth anniversary of IYY and to the formulation of a world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond. It called again upon Member States, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other governmental and intergovernmental organizations to implement fully the guidelines relating to the channels of communications adopted by the Assembly in its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17. It invited Governments to include youth representatives in their national delegations to the Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus enhancing and strengthening the channels of communication through the discussion of such issues, with a view to finding solutions to the problems confronting youth in the contemporary world.

Youth issues at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, considered the topic of policies and programmes involving

United Nations World Youth Assembly

1990 marked the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations World Youth Assembly (WYA), which had been held from 9 to 18 July 1970 at United Nations Headquarters. It brought together 653 youths from 120 Member States, 13 non-Member States, 36 international non-governmental youth organizations and over 200 young volunteers who serviced the Assembly. Held in honour of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, WYA worked both in plenary sessions (shown above) and in meetings of its commissions on education, environment, development and peace.

The commission on the environment of the United Nations World Youth Assembly is shown below.

youth under agenda item 96. These deliberations, carried out by the Third Committee of the Assembly, were based on a report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving young people: participation, development, peace (A/45/422), which was prepared in response to Assembly resolutions 43/136 and 44/59. The report provides an overview of activities undertaken at all levels for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, paying particular attention to activities of Member States, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the Institute of HOPE '87 (Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment). Major measures adopted by Governments in the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 2037 (XX), are analysed in the report. That the tenth anniversary of IYY in 1995 presents a suitable opportunity to stimulate renewed action at all levels is underlined in the report. Through the recommendations in the report, a framework is provided for collaboration by Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to identify future strategies and realistic targets for the year 2000 and beyond.

During the discussions in the Third Committee on the question of youth, forty-five representatives took the floor. Broad and positive support was given to preparations for the tenth anniversary of IYY, which was seen as a suitable occasion to focus global attention on youth issues. Governments stated the need: *(a)* to evaluate, at all levels, the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of IYY objectives; and *(b)* to identify future strategies and determine future priorities and needs. The need to prepare a global youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond was underlined.

In their descriptions of action taken at the national level, most representatives focused attention on the following issues: environment, employment, education and training, drug abuse, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), crime prevention, poverty, the debt crisis, youth exchanges and channels of communication. With regard to the environment, Governments were urged to develop and implement environmental education and training programmes in schools, colleges and universities. The importance of youth participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992 in Brazil, was stressed.

The important role of education and training in integrating young people into society was emphasized and attention was drawn to the importance of providing technical and vocational training tailored to national socio-economic conditions. The importance of promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms among young people was stressed. It was noted that there was a need for a more dynamic interaction between young people and adult society.

It was considered vital for Governments to continue efforts to consolidate the gains achieved in enhancing the objectives of the International Youth Year within the context of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. In that regard, emphasis was put on strengthening national capacities.

The efforts of UNOV/CSDHA in follow-up activities were praised. The need for more operational or action-oriented initiatives and more exchanges of technical knowledge and information on youth concerns were highlighted. The importance of revitalizing the resource base of the United Nations Youth Fund was stressed. Reference was made to the need to provide more technical assistance, particularly to developing countries.

Reference was made to the importance of regional and international cooperation, particularly the vital role of regional commissions in enhancing youth work. It was underlined that a primary function of the United Nations was to act as a catalyst for national level actions and to promote both global awareness and exchange of information of youth concerns. It was noted that the United Nations should assist Governments in constructing programmes that allow each individual to pursue personal growth. The United Nations was urged to focus on promoting education and employment opportunities as well as encouraging youth exchanges. Young people themselves should take part in the elaboration of the youth policy of the United Nations.

With regard to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Governments were urged to give active support to the participation of youth in the preparations and in the Conference itself. The United Nations was urged to conduct a comparative survey of existing environmental and education programmes.

It was felt that it was necessary to take a closer look at structures and contacts between the United Nations system and youth organizations, and to reconsider networks of non-governmental youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It was noted that the number of youth representatives in delegations to the General Assembly should be increased. The need to enhance channels of communication between the United Nations and youth organizations was emphasized.

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Activities of UNOV/CSDHA

The tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995 will present a suitable occasion for launching global activities with a view to reinforcing youth-related concerns in mainstream development activities, in cooperation with concerned organizations at all levels. The major tasks involved in the preparation of the tenth anniversary are as follows:

- To prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations;
- To prepare a programme of activities to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year;
- To prepare draft regional youth programmes of action towards the year 2000 and beyond;
- To invite Governments to prepare national youth plans of action towards the year 2000 and beyond;
- To prepare for the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, to be devoted to youth questions to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year.

As the focal point on youth matters within the United Nations system, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is playing a pivotal role in the preparations for the tenth anniversary.

The Youth Policies and Programmes Unit participated in the 75th session of the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations (GIM) as well as in the annual meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Collective Consultations of Non-Governmental Youth Organizations in September 1990. At the GIM Meeting, the role of GIM at the field level, with particular focus on projects of non-governmental youth organizations, was discussed. Preparations for a GIM regional workshop in Kenya on the issues of health and the environment were also discussed. At the meeting of the UNESCO Collective Consultations, the following topics were dealt with: East-West, North-South and Europe-America encounters, and the UNESCO Programme and Budget for 1992-1993. The principal objective of the meeting was to ascertain possible areas for action to be taken by youth organizations that would enable them to contribute to the strengthening of intercultural dialogue and solidarity.

On 19 October 1990, a round table on road safety was held in Vienna at the Vienna International Centre. The round table was organized by the Council on Traffic Safety of the Government of Austria, in collaboration with UNOV/CSDHA, the International Road Safety Organization and the Vienna NGO Committee on youth. Over 100 students from selected Austrian schools attended.

The Youth Policies and Programmes Unit participated at the Special Consultation on Volunteer Participation in Working with the Urban Poor. The theme of the Consultation was "How volunteers can work most effectively in supporting the urban poor in their development efforts". Participants included representatives of Governments and bilateral aid agencies, of specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations and of non-governmental organizations, as well as several resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, and a number of resource persons and experts.

The aim of the Consultation was to examine the practical implications of the future contribution of volunteer development workers: how to build on the work currently being undertaken in a wide variety of field situations; what types of programme approaches have proved most effective; and what would be the best channels and mechanisms, working methods and profiles of the volunteer development workers required. The role of youth organizations in mobilizing the community was also discussed.

United Nations statistics on youth

As documented in *World Population Prospects 1988*,* the youth population in the world, defined as those aged 15-24, numbered 460,013 million in 1950 and 941,428 million in 1985, and is projected to be 1,069,033 in 2000 and 1,358,212 in 2025. It comprised 18.3 per cent of the total population in 1950 and 19.4 in 1985, and is projected to be 17.1 in 2000 and 16.0 in 2025. It is growing at a rate of 1.8 per cent per year, slightly faster than the growth of the total population (1.7 per cent), and more than double the rate of growth of the child population (0.8 per cent). The current rapid growth is a direct consequence of the rapid growth of the child population in the 1960s and 1970s. As the growth of that population is declining, the growth of the youth population is slowing down considerably, and this trend will continue into the 1990s. The average annual rate of growth dropped from 2.2 per cent in 1980-1985 to 1.4 per cent in 1985-1990 and it is projected that it will drop further to 0.4 per cent in 1990-1995. It has been projected, however, that the growth of the youth population will increase again, reaching an average rate of growth of 1.0 per cent between 2000 and 2025.

Except in Africa, where the proportion of youth in the total population will continue to increase slowly to 21 per cent by 2025, all other major areas will have a relatively smaller proportion of youth in the total population because of the decline of fertility. In 2025, the proportion of youth is projected to be approximately 12 per cent in Europe and Northern America, 14 per cent in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and Oceania, and 16 per cent in Latin America and Asia. The absolute size of the youth population is also expected to decline in Europe, Northern America and USSR. However, the size of the youth population in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania is expected to increase from 1985 to 2025.

The following table shows demographic changes by region in detail for the years 1985, 1990 and 2000.

*United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIII.7.

Youth population (aged 15-24 years) since International Youth Year (1985): size, growth rate and percentage of the total population, for major regions of the world, 1985-2000, medium variant

	1985	1990	2000
World			
Size (thousands)	941 428	1 011 082	1 069 033
Annual growth rate (per cent)	2.2	1.4	0.6
Percentage of total	19.4	19.1	17.1
More developed regions			
Size (thousands)	186 815	179 146	172 597
Annual growth rate (per cent)	—0.5	—0.8	—0.4
Percentage of total	15.9	14.9	13.7
Less developed regions			
Size (thousands)	754 612	831 936	896 435
Annual growth rate (per cent)	2.9	2.0	0.7
Percentage of total	20.5	20.4	18.0
Africa			
Size (thousands)	105 244	123 048	170 391
Annual growth rate (per cent)	2.7	3.1	3.3
Percentage of total	18.9	19.0	19.5
Latin America			
Size (thousands)	82 292	88 885	101 597
Annual growth rate (per cent)	2.2	1.5	1.3
Percentage of total	20.4	19.5	18.8
Northern America			
Size (thousands)	44 070	39 858	39 848
Annual growth rate (per cent)	—1.4	—2.0	—0.0
Percentage of total	16.6	14.4	13.5
Asia			
Size (thousands)	583 188	637 795	638 900
Annual growth rate (per cent)	3.0	1.8	0.0
Percentage of total	20.6	20.5	17.3
Europe			
Size (thousands)	78 087	74 992	65 880
Annual growth rate (per cent)	0.4	—0.8	—1.3
Percentage of total	15.9	15.1	13.0
Oceania			
Size (thousands)	4 389	4 593	4 671
Annual growth rate (per cent)	1.4	1.9	0.3
Percentage of total	17.8	17.3	15.5
USSR			
Size (thousands)	44 242	42 014	47 840
Annual growth rate (per cent)	—1.7	—1.0	—1.3
Percentage of total	16.0	14.6	15.5

Source: Excerpted from the table based on the United Nations demographic estimates and projections as revised in 1988 as cited in *World Population Prospects 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIII.7), p. 58.

Note: Growth rate refers to the average annual rate of increase between the given dates.

News from regional commissions of the United Nations

Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been undertaking, on an ongoing basis, numerous activities concerning youth and development in the African region. The most important activities in this regard have been the following:

- Elaboration of a directory of youth organizations in Africa. The main objective of this directory is to promote cooperation and the exchange of experience between various African youth organizations;
- Elaboration of a report on the impact on rural development of employment programmes for young people in rural areas, the aim of which will be to assist political decision makers in reorienting their rural development policies towards benefiting youth;
- Organization of two subregional seminars on juvenile delinquency with the objective of increasing awareness of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules)* and to facilitate a new approach, taking into account the economic situation of the continent, by the system of justice.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Study on the impact of drug abuse among youth in the region

The continued increase of drug abuse and its negative consequences is causing worldwide concern and alarm. Addiction has spread over the entire world, sparing almost no country, sex, age or social class. Although drug abuse can affect all social strata, sex and age groups, that it occurs predominantly among youth is of particular concern. As a world trend, the average age of abusers of drugs and psychotropic substances has become considerably lower because younger people are the least well-prepared to cope with stress or to be truly adaptable to rapid social changes. Children and adolescents are experimenting with more and newer substances while employing a greater variety of methods in taking them. Illicit drug use has been singled out as a predominant factor in the high death rate among youth in several countries. Drug-addicted youth are likely to be delinquent and are frequently referred through the criminal justice system, and they appear to suffer from low self-esteem and a lack of motivation.

*General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

Addiction also exists, to varying degrees, in the countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region, which have been facing a sharp increase in the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances. The demand for illicit drugs, particularly among youth, has grown considerably. However, very few studies have been published on the nature and extent of this problem, in spite of the high incidence of drug abuse among youth in the region.

ESCWA is undertaking, in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), a regional study entitled "Impact of drug abuse among youth in the ESCWA region: Approaches to social re-integration". The proposed study aims at covering two dimensions: *(a)* an epidemiological study on the nature and extent of drug abuse among youth in countries of the ESCWA region, including an in-depth analysis of the socio-cultural factors that lead to the initiation and continuation of drug abuse as well as socio-economic consequences of such abuse; and *(b)* an evaluative study on available prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services for youth to improve the effectiveness of such services.

News from bodies, programmes and funds of the United Nations

United Nations Environment Programme

Youth participation in environmental education and action projects

On World Environment Day, on 5 June 1985, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) made a special appeal to young people of the world to be an active force in the preservation of the environment for the future and challenged them to respond positively to the motto of International Youth Year — participation, development and peace. UNEP followed up that initiative by writing to youth organizations throughout the world whose interest in the environment was identified by 140 committees set up by Governments to coordinate IYY activities. A regional meeting for youth leaders was subsequently convened at UNEP headquarters at Nairobi, Kenya, in November 1985. Recommendations from that meeting were submitted to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at Cairo, Egypt, in December 1985.

Since that time, the following actions have been taken: the Youth Environmental Agenda was drawn up in 1986 and distributed to relevant non-governmental organizations throughout the world; a network of 12 UNEP regional youth focal points was established in 1988 and a framework for their activities was agreed upon at the first Youth Environmental Round Table at Nairobi in 1988; UNEP formed partnerships with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) for the production of training materials and environmental education and action projects in 1990-1991; and UNEP expanded its youth network to include the youth departments of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LORCS). Since its inception in 1987, the Global 500 Award has been given by UNEP to non-governmental youth organizations (such as WOSM and WAGGGS) and to individual children and young people for achievements in environmental education and action projects. In addition, for the past five years, UNEP has organized an annual Youth Forum at United Nations Headquarters for students in primary and secondary schools to talk about what they have done or are doing to make a difference. UNEP has also appointed a Goodwill Ambassador with specific responsibility for reaching out to young people.

Numerous publications have also been issued by UNEP, such as a booklet entitled "Young Action for the Future", to highlight young people's successes in their campaign for the protection of the environment. UNEP has also set up an outreach network, a coalition of organizations working to disseminate information on environment and health through schools and the media. Many non-governmental youth organizations are involved in the network. The creation of a global network on youth and environment was the challenge for the second Youth Environmental Round Table of UNEP, held at Nairobi from 3 to 7 December 1990. Recommendations included one for the appointment of 12 youth leaders from six regions to act as Regional Youth Focal Point of UNEP for 1991-1992.

For further information, contact: Robert Swan, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador with special responsibilities for youth activities, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya.

United Nations Children's Fund

Youth in service to children

Many of the programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) address development needs of youth in general and of young women in particular. "Youth in service to children" is the basic concept behind UNICEF youth programmes, because young people have repeatedly shown that they can be active promoters of low-cost strategies to improve the conditions of children, to protect their health and well-being, and to contribute as partners in development programmes related to children.

UNICEF promotes youth-to-child and youth-to-youth services at the country level through its field offices and national committees; encourages youth participation in health promotion activities; carries out programmes of direct benefit to youth, such as non-formal education programmes, income-generating and training activities for street children and youth as well as other programmes for children and youth in especially difficult circumstances, in particular those working under ex-

ploitative conditions or suffering from natural or other disasters; supports international and national youth organizations in particular in advocating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and promotes the direct involvement of young people in the programmes designed for them.

As part of its public mobilization efforts for the World Summit for Children, held in New York from 29 to 30 September 1990, UNICEF further developed its cooperation with youth movements by supporting the Youth NGO Round Table called by a consultative group of 17 non-governmental youth organizations(see box). Two hundred participants, from 15 to 30 years old, and from more than 100 countries representing 275 million young people, gathered in Geneva from 15 to 18 September 1990 for the Round Table on the theme "Youth giving children a future".

As a result of the Round Table, a letter containing a declaration to the heads of State assembled at the World Summit for Children and a plan of action have been formulated. The plan of action gives ideas to non-governmental youth organizations on how they can act in the following five priority areas for the 1990s identified by the participants: rights of the child, health, education, environment and structural adjustment. It emphasizes the need for non-governmental youth organizations to unify their efforts, networks of volunteers, human and financial resources to carry out their duty to give our children a future.

In addition, as a direct follow-up of the Youth NGO Round Table an action kit has been developed by the Youth NGO Consultative Group in the above-mentioned priority areas. That action kit, is based on concrete ideas and experiences of non-governmental youth organizations.

UNICEF — consultative group of non-governmental youth organizations

Asia-Pacific Students Association
Council of European National Youth Committees
European Coordination Bureau of Youth NGO's
International Committee of Children and Adolescent Movement
International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educational International
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations
Latin America Centre on Youth
Latin American Continental Students Organization
League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Youth Department
Pan-African Youth Movement
Rädda Barnen International, Youth Section
World Assembly of Youth
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Organization of the Scout Movement
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations
World Young Women's Christian Association
Youth for Development and Cooperation

For further information, contact: **Philippe Cori, NGO Liaison Officer, UNICEF, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.**

United Nations Volunteers

Non-governmental youth organizations promoting youth participation in development

Since it was established by the General Assembly in 1970, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) has sent nearly 6,000 volunteers to work on development projects in more than 100 countries. Through its Domestic Development Service (DDS), UNV has promoted the exchange of experience and know-how among non-governmental youth organizations and supported their involvement in development projects. UNV has noted that one principal constraint experienced by youth worldwide is a tendency towards marginalization. UNV identified two aspects of that problem: *(a)* lack of secure channels of permanent communication between youth and country level institutions (public and private), inter-country or international organizations; and *(b)* lack of meaningful support to existing or potential youth programmes in fields such as youth and AIDS; youth and drugs; youth and literacy or education; youth and access to employment opportunities; and youth and the environment. The involvement of UNV in the youth field is community oriented and usually community based.

One example of a youth project executed by UNV was entitled "Assistance to youth participation in development in the Pacific region". That project sought: *(a)* to increase youth participation in development activities aimed at community self-reliance; *(b)* to strengthen the capacity of Governments and non-governmental organizations to support youth self-help initiatives at the community level; and *(c)* to promote sharing of experience and skills among Pacific Island countries on programmes of youth participation in development. Activities included the following: placement and backstopping of field workers (nationals of one island country working in another island country) to help local youth organize and initiate socio-economic activities including income generating; organization of national and subregional work-

shops on leadership, management and other technical themes; and provision of advisory services to national youth councils in their efforts to promote youth participation in development. The UNV budget for that project was $US 1,250,000 for the period from 1987 to 1991. Other such UNV/DDS projects of the Domestic Development Service of UNV are located in Africa and Western Asia, and soon will be implemented in the Caribbean. National and provincial youth councils and numerous non-governmental youth organizations are partners with UNV in the DDS programmes.

For further information, contact: Robert Leigh, Chief, PDP Division, United Nations Volunteers, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

United Nations Population Fund

Projects and networks on population and family planning

UNFPA has undertaken numerous non-governmental youth organization projects and has a worldwide network of youth organizations working with it to promote family planning. World population, which has more than doubled during the past 40 years to become 5.3 billion in 1990 compared with some 2.5 billion in 1950, is growing faster than ever before, increasing by more than 2.5 billion every year. In 1990, the worldwide youth population (people aged 15 to 24) exceeded one billion persons, of which more than 80 per cent lived in developing countries. UNFPA has particularly cited the problem of early parenthood which may seriously limit young people's social and educational development, as well as their ability to achieve full integration in society. The demographic implication of early parenthood is that it often results in larger families and shorter time spans between generations, which together contribute to rapid population growth. Programmes that advocate delaying marriage and childbirth in favour of education have been emphasized, and UNFPA has worked together with non-governmental youth organizations to promote population education both in and out of schools. UNFPA, together with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, issued a joint policy statement in 1989 on the reproductive health of adolescents. Specific UNFPA youth activities include the following global and interregional projects: an international youth workshop; a network of non-governmental youth organizations; information for youth; and an international forum on adolescent fertility. Country projects include out-of-school population education (Malawi), education for responsible parenthood (United Republic of Tanzania), and sex education (Chile and the Dominican Republic).

For further information, contact: James Chui, Technical Officer, UNFPA Education, Communication and Youth Branch, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017, United States of America.

Information on family planning being provided in a family planning clinic in the Philippines.

Photo by J. Wagner

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Youth and drug abuse control activities: the important role of non-governmental youth organizations

A large number of the activities supported by the Fund for Drug Abuse Control* of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) are youth-related. It is believed that non-governmental youth organizations can play an important role in the worldwide fight against drugs and it has supported several such projects. One project, which began in June 1990 and lasted for a year, concerned the reduction of illicit demand among street youth at Bogota. The agencies that carried out the project were the National Narcotics Council of Colombia and the Red Cross and its Youth Section of Colombia. The target group were street children and youth in Bogota between the ages of 14 and 17. Under the project, two pilot production centres were created to assist street children and youth in overcoming their problems of drug addiction. By providing such children and youth some economic stability, the project sought to assist them in developing positive attitudes towards themselves, work and society.

The project's activities included the selection of 15 young people of both sexes. Contracts, salaries and

*Formerly the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

training in technical and administrative skills were provided. Supervision and guidance were undertaken by the Red Cross and its Youth Section and the youth were given increasing responsibility as the project progressed. Wherever possible, the activities of the project sought to reintegrate the youth in their families. Activities also included camps, sports and social and cultural events to develop group spirit. The plan was to expand the number of pilot centres over a three-year period until there were 20 such centres involving 200 young people. Related youth and drug abuse projects have been supported by the Fund in Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

For further information, contact: Stefano Polacco, Fund for Drug Abuse Control, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Vienna International Centre, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

Scenes from a gathering of YMCA at the UNRWA youth activities centre in Deir Amman camp on the West Bank.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Refugee youth and cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) supports increased cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations to assist its activities in support of Palestinian refugees in the Near East. UNRWA works closely with the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA). Since 1959, UNRWA and YMCA have been collaborating to establish youth activities in the area of operations of UNRWA, and summer camps are organized on a joint basis annually in Jordan and Lebanon. Assistance in organizing the camps in Lebanon is provided by the Save the Children Fund and the Al-Najda Association.

For further information, contact: Francesco M. Bastagli, Chief, Office of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 700, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

News from research institutes and centres of the United Nations

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Street Children Project in Buenos Aires and Montevideo

Within the context of the Street Children Project of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, a Seminar on Infancia, Situaciones de Riesgo y Políticas de Prevención en America Latina en el Marco de la Convención de los Derechos del Niño was organized at Buenos Aires, from 10 to 14 September 1990. Apart from UNICRI, the seminar was sponsored by UNICEF, the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the

Inter-American Institute for Children and Defence for Children International.

STOP DROGA

STOP DROGA is a drug abuse prevention campaign jointly planned and implemented by UNICRI and the Istituto Internazionale di Studi e Informazione Sanitaria, under the auspices of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT).

STOP DROGA is an instrument for national institutions to create healthy life styles free from drug abuse. All its programmes, which are targeted to the fields of school, workplace, health, information and research, are implemented in collaboration with governmental and local authorities and with support of academic and research institutions.

Italy has been chosen as a pilot country; negotiations with Eastern European and African countries are in progress and adaptation to other national realities are planned for 1991.

News from specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system

International Labour Organisation

Employment creation for, and vocational training of, young people

In accordance with the overall mandate of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the recommendations contained in resolution V adopted on 25 June 1986 by the General Conference of ILO at its seventy-second session, one priority of ILO is the creation of employment opportunities for and vocational training of young people. The questions of "youth employment", "the right to education and to work", and "resolving the problem of unemployment among youth", emphasized by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolutions 44/59 and 45/103, and also at the centre of resolution V of the General Conference of ILO. ILO works with numerous non-governmental youth organizations. In accordance with article 12 of its Constitution, ILO may make consultative arrangements with non-governmental organizations. Among the organizations in general consultative status with ILO, three have young workers' programmes: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Confederation of Labour and the World Federation of Trade Unions. The special list of non-governmental organizations cooperating with ILO includes several world youth organizations, such as the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, International Young Christian Workers and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. ILO is currently working on a project proposal that would directly involve a youth organization in the United Republic of Tanzania in an employment promotion project in the informal sector.

For further information, contact: David Freedman, Employment and Development Department, International Labour Office, 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.

Students working in a machine shop in Costa Rica in a programme of the United Nations Development Programme that was executed by ILO.

Food and Agriculture Organization

Youth work through non-governmental organizations

In the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) emphasis is placed on rural population, including rural youth and young farmers. The two global issues which stand out most significantly are the increasing numbers of youth and the lack of educational and employment opportunities for rural young men and women. High drop-out rates, inferior schools (often with irrelevant courses of study), and a worsening economic situation place rural youth and young farmers at a distinct disadvantage compared to their urban counterparts. FAO is committed to practical action in the developing world, and it is important to recognize the magnitude of potential and current problems of rural youth.

Young men sorting fish in the Philippines. Photo by Virgilio M. Banaria

Issues affecting rural youth

A large percentage of rural youth do not enjoy the benefits of full participation and integration in the social and economic sectors of their countries because of unequal or inadequate access to opportunities. Illiteracy rates among rural young people are high in most developing countries, where there is not yet broad access to education and training.

A central question is the degree to which rural young people should participate in economic development. Direct involvement in the management of their work and the sharing of its benefits is still tenuous. Traditional structures of authority, often based upon a generational concept, tend to circumscribe the efforts of young people. The connection between economic recession and a lack of jobs available, especially in rural areas, is clear and well established.

The potential for involving non-governmental organizations in addressing the problems faced by rural youth has not been fully recognized or utilized. Specialized training programmes tailored to the specific needs of young people in the rural areas can be developed by and through local non-governmental organizations, which have the ability to address local issues with a level of precision and clarity that is not often matched by larger scale government programmes. Leadership development programmes coupled with non-formal training and income generating projects offer opportunities that may be ignored by officials who view their task as doing "more important" work with adults.

Youth projects with non-governmental organizations

FAO has very little project activity in which non-governmental organizations are contracted to execute field projects having youth as the primary beneficiary. Several projects, particularly those carried out through the Freedom From Hunger Campaign/ Action for Development of FAO, are directly involved with non-governmental organizations. Some of the projects involve youth, but they generally have a wider scope.

In Latin America, FAO currently has a contractual agreement with the Instituto de Promoción Agraria (INPROA) wherein INPROA, an umbrella cooperative group, is carrying out a study on the situation and needs of rural youth with an emphasis on the sons and daughters of members of farmers' cooperatives. Following the study, INPROA will assist in organizing and carrying out a workshop to discuss the situation of rural youth in Chile. Workshop participants will draw conclusions and make recommendations for a plan of action and project activity directed at leadership development, training and the organization of income-generating activities for rural youth and young farmers. FAO is also working with non-governmental organizations and youth in Panama and El Salvador.

INPROA is working with FAO in the development and field testing of youth group leaders and guides in the area of population education for rural young men and women. Field testing of these materials is currently under way in Chile, Colombia and Guatemala.

Through the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO, a project has been developed in Sri Lanka through which a series of training activities for rural youth will be carried out by a non-governmental organization. In other projects, government agencies and non-governmental organizations cooperate in specific training or workshop activities which are related to youth.

Many countries offer rural youth programmes through their agricultural extension services. These programmes take advantage of volunteer leaders and may have autonomous non-governmental status, as is the case in the Philippines, where FAO recently held a workshop on the situation and needs of rural youth and has undertaken numerous projects involving rural youth in such activities as working in fisheries.

Twice a year, FAO publishes Youthworks, an information note which is printed in English, French and Spanish in newsletter format. This publication has proved to be very popular and has opened an effective channel of communication between FAO and a number of non-governmental organizations working with rural youth and young farmers. A dialogue between readers has been established through letters to the editor and through articles submitted by members and leaders of youth groups. FAO has also been actively associated with the International Association of Agricultural Students and other student organizations of universities and colleges of agriculture.

FAO promotes the biennial International Seminar for the Promotion of Rural Youth Work, which has been

taking place since 1962. The Seminar, organized by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry of Germany, is designed for leaders working in national, regional or local rural youth organizations and public or private bodies that are responsible for conducting rural youth work. The international character of the Seminar provides an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences among people from varied origins and backgrounds. FAO has three types of affiliation with the following youth and youth-serving organizations: consultative status with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the League of Red Cross Societies, the World Confederation of Labour and the World Federation of Trade Unions; specialized consultative status with the International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth, the World Assembly of Youth and the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations; and liaison status with the European Trade Union Confederation, the International Association of Agricultural Students, the International Young Christian Workers, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the World University Service.

For further information, contact: William I. Lindley, Agricultural and Extension Officer, FAO, Via delle Terme Di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

A literacy class at Bale, Ethiopia.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Priority youth programmes and projects with non-governmental youth organizations

The mandate of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of youth is reflected in all fields of competence of UNESCO: education, science, culture, communication, information and social and human sciences. The priorities of the youth programme of UNESCO are based on its Third Medium-Term Plan (1990-1995) and include: *(a)* the transverse theme on youth; *(b)* the mobilizing project on youth entitled "Youth shaping the future"; and *(c)* related resolutions adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-fifth session, held in 1989. The Executive Board of UNESCO, at its thirty-fifth session in 1990, adopted recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO for the priority programme activities that should be taken into account when preparing the draft programme and budget for 1992-1993 and that deal with the transverse theme on youth. The activities give priority to the participation of young people in projects and programmes relating to literacy, protection of the environment and restoration of the cultural heritage, youth exchange programmes and in practical action aimed at solving the problems faced by young people.

The UNESCO Collective Consultation on Non-Governmental Youth Organizations was set up in 1975 in accordance with the principle that the youth programme of UNESCO should be drawn up in cooperation with young people themselves and should involve them in the implementation of the programme. Representatives of UNESCO and non-governmental youth organizations meet each year at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, or away from headquarters at the invitation of a Member State. A working group consisting of six non-governmental youth organizations elected by the Consultation for one year maintains contact with the UNESCO secretariat between Consultations. During the 1990-1991 biennium, the youth programme of UNESCO has cooperated in and supported the implementation of 14 projects by non-governmental youth organizations that were prepared in cooperation with UNESCO or at their own initiative. The projects included a programme for training of trainers for international understanding; a village concept project; a workcamp for the restoration of the site of Kairouan, Tunisia; the European Voluntary Service House; a programme of training of young specialists in literacy work; a seminar on youth and the world concerning the East-West changes and their influence on the South; the South-South Youth Exchange Programme etc.

For further information, contact: P. Vagliani, UNESCO Youth Division, 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

World Health Organization

Adolescent health programme and cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations

The WHO Adolescent Health Programme seeks to maintain and promote the health of young people worldwide. The programme seeks to obtain and to disseminate information to adolescents and influential adults; to train adolescents and adults in the skills needed to provide health care and to foster healthy behaviour; to facilitate the development of policy and legislation that better meet adolescent health needs; and to improve provision of information, guidance and services seeking to promote health, prevent problems and treat and rehabilitate those in need. The WHO Adolescent Health Programme sponsors conferences, seminars and workshops and provides technical and financial support to adolescent health programmes of Governments and non-governmental organizations. One major project involving a number of non-governmental youth organizations is entitled "Youth for Youth: Promotion of Adolescent Reproductive Health through NGO Collaboration". That project is supported by WHO, the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The participating non-governmental organizations are League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Assembly of Youth, World Organization of the Scout Movement and the World Young Women's Christian Association. National workshops are being held in each of the six participating countries (Colombia, Egypt, Jamaica, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka). WHO has also assisted the International Association for Adolescent Health to organize the Association's fifth congress on the theme "A time for Action", to be held from 3 to 6 July 1991 in Montreaux, Switzerland. In accordance with article 71 of the WHO Constitution of the World Health Organization, the following non-governmental organizations ha e been admitted into official relations with WHO: International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Assembly of Youth, and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

For further information, contact: Dr. Herbert L. Friedman, Chief, Adolescent Health, Division of Family Health, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Youth-related activities and cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations

Although the mandate of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) does not directly include youth questions, it has undertaken numerous youth related activities. For example, it has signed memoranda of understanding with several universities regarding cooperative research projects, student internships and briefings, exchanges of professors and staff of UNIDO etc. The universities cooperating with UNIDO are: Paris I - Panthéon Sorbonne, Boston College, University of Michigan, Central School of Planning and Statistics of Poland, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne and University of Grenoble. UNIDO has granted consultative status to the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience and has established contacts with numerous organizations involved in engineering education and industrial development research.

For further information, contact: Mile Janjic, Head, Industrial Co-operation Branch, UNIDO, P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

World Tourism Organization

The General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) adopted a resolution in 1989 to organize the World Conference on Youth Tourism. That idea was conceived approximately ten years ago by international organizations involved in youth and student travel and has often been promoted by representatives of non-governmental organizations such as the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) and the International Bureau for Youth Tourism and Exchanges (BITEJ). A working group on youth tourism was set up by WTO and includes among its members representatives of ISTC and BITEJ, as well as other non-governmental youth organizations such as the International Youth Hostel Federation. The working group has been assisting WTO to plan the Conference as a global forum for bridging the gaps between the youth of the world. The logo for the conference symbolizes the aims and objectives of the gathering. The globe represents the transnational reach of the activities of the conference, spreading its wings over and across the world. The outstretched arms and limbs of youth represent the energy and vitality of modern youth reaching out across the barriers of nationality in a gesture of mutual understanding. It was planned to hold the Conference at New Delhi, India, from 28 to 31 January 1991. Due to organizational difficulties, however, the Conference was postponed. A new date is being planned for the Conference, which nearly 1,000 delegates are expected to attend.

For further information, contact: International Conference on Youth Tourism, World Tourism Organization, Capitan Haya, 42, E-28020 Madrid, Spain, or Stephen Dworkin, Secretary, Student Air Travel Association, Bothersgade 30, 1123 Copenhagen, K, Denmark.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Commonwealth Youth Programme

The tenth meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council (CYAC) was held at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 1 to 5 June 1990. It brought together young people from 36 countries, youth affairs ministers and senior officials to discuss issues of common interest and to consider the recommendations in the *CYP Review* and recommendations for future policies and the programme of action. The Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 1987 had asked for a full review of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP). Five major recommendations for future CYP activities were endorsed, comprising: *(a)* enterprise and youth employment; *(b)* young women and development; *(c)* youth, health and welfare issues; *(d)* the environment and *(e)* youth policy development. In considering those priorities, CYAC also took note of the Youth Caucus statement on the future programme of activities and added literacy and population issues for future CYP action. The Council also agreed that CYAC status should be raised to that of the Commonwealth Youth Ministries Meeting with roles including pan-Commonwealth aspects of youth development policy: exchange-experience of youth in the Commonwealth and providing ongoing support, advice and guidance to the future activities of CYP.

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme, South Pacific Regional Centre, *Newsletter*, Volume 3, No. 2, June 1990.

The European Communities and the Council of Europe

The first session of the Council of Youth Ministers of the European Communities was scheduled to take place in Italy in 1990. However, the meeting was cancelled and a new schedule is being prepared. For its part, the Council of Europe convened the third Conference of Youth Ministers from 20 to 21 September 1990, to evaluate youth policy in the light of the recommendations of the first and second conferences of youth ministers. That evaluation was based on reports produced by each government as a follow-up to the conferences. Examined in the reports was the situation in Europe regarding the participation of young people in society; the marginalization of young people; the situation of young women; research on youth; and youth exchanges and the promotion of mobility. Youth participation was defined in all the government reports in terms of participation in elections and it was declared that such participation was declining. Poverty and unemployment were found to be the main causes of youth marginalization, with ethnic minorities and women being the most affected.

Source: Youth Forum Bulletin, 9/1990, September (Youth Forum of the European Communities).

South Pacific Commission

The South Pacific Commission (SPC), now comprising 22 countries in the Pacific region, was set up in 1947 to assure the economic and social stability of its members. The Commission includes all the tropical South Pacific Islands, as well as the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia. The total area covers more than 29 million square kilometres. The land area, however, with its population of five million, covers only 551,000 square kilometres. Through its youth programme, SPC assists the 22 member Governments in their efforts to mobilize youth to become effective partners in their development plans. SPC attempts to reach youth in villages at the grassroots level and to mobilize them through training programmes on their roles in the development of self, family, community and country. Some of the Commission's member countries have formed national youth councils. A few have their own ministries of youth. Most have a section concerned with youth affairs under the ministry of education. Tradition, culture and religion are influential for youth policies and programmes in the SPC region. Of the 22 members, the following have established national youth councils: Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.

Contact: The South Pacific Commission, Youth Development Officer, P.O. Box D5, Noumea CEDEX, New Caledonia. Fax: (687) 26 38 18.

COUNTRY NEWS: GOVERNMENTAL YOUTH POLICIES/PROGRAMMES

Bahamas

The guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth continue to influence the policy choices of the National Youth Advisory Council. The youth development strategy, formulated by the Council, focuses primarily on skills development that would open for young people all avenues for social, economic, cultural and political development. The priorities of Governments in this regard have centred on expanding youth employment opportunities and on providing the education and training essential for youth to take advantage of these opportunities.

To counteract unemployment among youth, programmes such as Junior Achievers have been avidly promoted and supported by the Government. This programme, designed to acquaint young Bahamians with economic principles, business practices and an opportunity for self-employment, has attracted some 6,000 participants in 10 years.

In the field of education, the Bahamas has been successful in increasing

school retention rates by establishing the basic provisions for free and compulsory education up to age 14. These efforts are complemented by a system for full secondary education, structured training and post secondary education opportunities, and income support where necessary. A scholarship programme has increased the number of young Bahamians having access to tertiary education. As a result, the pool of trained professional and technical people continues to increase, thereby enhancing the prospects for development.

Ireland

The work of the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education of Ireland is essentially in the sphere of informal education, and the Section is continuing its efforts to make informal educational services available to young people. This is principally done through the provision of financial assistance for special projects for disadvantaged youth and for national youth organizations.

The Youth Affairs Section operates the following schemes of assistance:

- *Grant Scheme for Projects for Disadvantaged Youth:* The Youth Affairs Section has, since 1988, administered a scheme of grants in respect of special out-of-school initiatives for disadvantaged young people. Priority is given to projects in the areas of special youth work services, young homeless people, young substance abusers and young travellers. Grants are allocated to organizations and groups for specific projects which seek to address the needs of young people who are disadvantaged;
- *Youth Service Grant Scheme:* State funding for the support of voluntary youth work is made available on an annual basis to voluntary youth organizations through the Youth Services Grant Scheme;
- *Other Grant Scheme:* The Youth Affairs Section also provides resources for the development of a network of youth information centres, of which the purpose is to provide young people with easy access to information on their rights, benefits, opportunities, health, welfare and other issues.

New Zealand

The establishment of the Office of Youth Affairs in 1990 is one of the major steps that the New Zealand Government has made in acknowledging that youth input is essential in policy development. The main function of the Office is to advise the Government and government departments on policy affecting youth. To do this effectively it has been considered necessary to maintain contact with the youth community. The Minister of Youth Affairs has appointed a liaison team, whose duties include the establishment of regional networks within New Zealand in order to liaise, collect and disseminate information. The team helps to facilitate youth opinion and participation in Government policy development. It has contact with non-governmental youth organizations such as the National Youth Council and the Federation of New Zealand Youth Organizations.

Sri Lanka

A Presidential Commission on Youth appointed by President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka has reviewed the problems affecting young people and has made a report to the Government, containing recommendations, which are being implemented. The Cabinet Ministry Devoted to Youth Affairs and Sports, the National Youth Service Council and the National Apprenticeship Board are addressing the basic educational and training needs of the young population. In addition, free education is afforded to young people at primary, secondary and tertiary levels through a well-integrated network of schools, colleges, technical training schools, polytechnical institutes and universities for higher learning in arts, commerce, law, engineering, medicine and other disciplines.

NEWS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

International level

Meeting of representatives of UNOV and the World Federation of Democratic Youth

Representatives of the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs were invited by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) to visit its headquarters at Budapest, Hungary, from 25 to 26 August 1990. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with officials of WFDY joint activities in the field of youth within the framework of the objectives of the International Youth Year (IYY) and its follow-up. The Deputy-Director of the Social Development Division (UNOV/SDD) and the Officer-in-Charge of the Youth Unit (UNOV/SDD) had discussions with members of the WFDY Bureau, followed by a meeting with Mr. Ali Mawla (President of WFDY), Mr. Gyorgy Szabo (General Secretary), and Mr. Alexandre Skvortsov (Vice-President and Head of the WFDY International Department).

The focus of the discussions was on the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and the current programmes in the field of youth of the two organizations. Cooperation was identified for the following areas: *(a)* preliminary observations would be provided by WFDY in its possible contributions to preparations for the tenth anniversary of IYY; *(b)* a joint event would be organized for one occasion of the fifth anniversary of IYY to be held during

the General Conference of WFDY in December 1990; *(c)* an expert group meeting on youth and drugs would be jointly organized in 1991; and *(d)* follow-up consultations would be held on the convening of a non-governmental youth organization meeting parallel to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in 1992.

Follow-up consultations are being undertaken by the Youth Policies and Programmes Unit (UNOV/CSDHA) with WFDY and other major international, regional and national non-governmental youth organizations to canvass their views and to obtain their suggestions on proposals for marking the tenth anniversary of IYY. WFDY is preparing a project proposal for an Expert Group Meeting on Youth and Drugs in 1991 which will be reviewed by UNOV/CSDHA for possible joint cooperation. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Fund for Drug Abuse Control are also being consulted for possible cooperation.

International Union of Students launches student rights monitoring group

As part of a long-term strategy aimed at promoting the rights of students, the International Union of Students (IUS) has launched a number of activities, including the establishment of the Student Rights Monitoring Group. It has worked out a draft preliminary bill for academic freedom and the rights of academic communities, which IUS hopes will serve as an international standard for the defence of student rights. The Group also has drawn up a form for reports to the IUS secretariat on violations of student and academic rights. The form includes sections on the identity of the person or group subject to violation; narrative account of the violation; date, place of violation and witnesses to the violation; forces believed to be responsible, written or audiovisual evidence of the violation; indication of which right has been violated; political and civil rights; cultural rights, academic freedom and academic rights; national and international measures (legal or otherwise) against the violation; information concerning the author of the report and his/her capacity for acting (victim or representative of the victim etc.); and confidentiality (statement whether the author of the report wishes his/her identity to be kept confidential). IUS is disseminating that form throughout the world via its *IUS Newsletter* devoted to student rights.

Source: "Student Rights", *IUS Newsletter*, No. 3/90, pp. 1-7.

13th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Keystone Youth Organizations

The Conference was hosted by the National Youth Federation of Ireland and took place from 21 to 28 July 1990, at Clongowes Wood College, Naas, County Kildare, about 21 miles west of Dublin. The theme of the Conference was "Across Frontiers" and representatives discussed timely issues concerning the European Community and the effect of recent political, economic and social change in countries throughout the world. Specific topics discussed included "Crossing Frontiers" (effects of migration in member countries of the International Federation of Keystone Youth Organizations (IFKYO), especially the human aspects, for example, the effects on young people) and "Changing Frontiers" (implications for young people of what was termed the "Completion of the European Community in 1992"). The Conference brought together full members, associate members, affiliates and contacts of IFKYO. Full members of IFKYO are as follows: Australian Association of Police-Citizens Youth Clubs, Austrian Young Workers Movement, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, International Federation for Social and Youth Work (Germany), Jamaica/Montego Bay Boys and Girls Club, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (Mauritius), Youth Town Police and Citizens Club (New Zealand), National Association of Boys' Clubs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Northern Ireland Association of Boys' Clubs, Boys' Clubs of Scotland, Boys' Clubs of Wales, and Boys' Clubs of America (United States of America).

Source: The Keystone, International Federation of Keystone Youth Organizations, Volume 11, No. 1, Summer 1990, p. 1 and International Federation of Keystone Youth Organizations, *Handbook of IFKYO partners* (Evanston, 1990).

Non-governmental youth organizations plan to participate in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

A recent strategy meeting of over 100 non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations, was held at Nyon, Switzerland, to discuss the level and degree of non-governmental organization participation in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992. Mr. Maurice Strong, Chairman of the Conference, expressed his desire for full non-governmental organization participation in both the Conference and its preparatory processes. Various non-governmental youth organizations have met at such locations as Brussels, Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Paris and Vienna to discuss preliminary ideas regarding the participation of non-governmental youth organizations in the Conference.

The preparatory committee of the Conference endorsed this plan at its second meeting, held at Nairobi, Kenya, in August 1990. In order to coordinate the non-governmental organization effort, the Centre for Our Common Future (COCF) at Geneva agreed to act as focal point for many NGO preparatory activities for the Conference. COCF organized the Nyon meeting and it plans to issue a quarterly bulletin and eventually a monthly report on progress towards the Conference. Meanwhile, other

non-governmental organizations coordinating bodies for environmental action are also planning activities. The Environmental Liaison Centre (ELC) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) are discussing plans to hold a pre-Conference meeting approximately six months before the world gathering for non-governmental organizations to work out action at the national level to lobby their Governments. Non-governmental organizations are also planning parallel events to the Conference in Brazil and over 20,000 representatives are expected for the non-governmental organization gatherings.

Source: Information on COCF, ELC and EEB activities: *Development Forum*, Volume XVIII, No. 4, July-August 1990, p. 20.

Regional level

European Youth Rights Symposium calls for youth rights charter

The Youth Forum of the European Communities (YFEC) and the Fondation France Libertés jointly organized a symposium on "Youth Rights" to examine the state of youth rights both in theory and in practice in the European Communities today. Over 100 people from different backgrounds attended the Symposium in February 1990. Guest speakers included Mme. Danielle Mitterand (President of the Fondation France Libertés) and Mr. Jacques Delors (President of the European Commission). The Symposium called for a youth rights charter and proposed that it be launched in October 1990. The conception of the charter was that it should not only guarantee basic rights, but also ensure that young people are equipped to have access to the exercise of those basic rights. It will consist of several principles, within which a statement of youth rights will be incorporated.

The youth charter will be used to try to influence the legislation of the European Communities, so as to ensure that existing laws are implemented, that young people's rights are recognized, and most importantly to allow them access to those rights. The charter's aim is to set new long-term challenges, examining the economic, environmental, and moral issues facing young people. It would try to fill the gap between the right "to do and to be" and the capacity "to do and to be". Fundamental to this goal is the definition of the status and role of young people in society. The Youth Forum of the European Communities is following up this work.

Source: "No Rights, No Way", *Youth Opinion*, Quarterly magazine of YFEC, September 1990, pp. 7-10.

European Youth Science Network

Set up as a network of organizations and individuals interested in issues regarding young people, the sciences, and youth science within Europe, the European Youth Science Network (EURYSN) monitors and publicizes European Community activities on such questions. For example, EURYSN recently publicized the second European Community Contest for Young Scientists. The finals of the contest were held from 15 to 18 October 1990 at the Falkoner Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the awards ceremony was held on 19 October in the Copenhagen Town Hall. The finals were organized in close cooperation with national Young Scientist Associations in Europe and the organizers of national competitions. The contest was set up to promote the ideals of cooperation and exchange between young scientists and to provide a stimulus for the development of promising young scientific talent. In a more general way, the European Communities wish to stimulate a lasting interest in science and technology among European youth. Entries must be in one of the fields of exact and natural sciences and technology (humanities and social sciences are therefore not included).

For further information, please contact: Alain Van Wingle, Deputy Coordinator EURYSN, c/o IAYSG, 37 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1, Ireland or Directorate General XII (Science, Research and Development), Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels, Belgium.

Youth in the 1990s: European Conference on the Role of Young People in the Future Society

The European Conference on the Role of Young People in the Future Society was held at the Aros Congress Centre, Västeros, Sweden, from 10 to 12 October 1990. The Conference discussed such issues as: *(a)* the legacy of today's youth policy (moral panic as a theme in youth work); *(b)* silent girls and shouting boys (increasing self-confidence on your own — without the guys); *(c)* participation as marginalization (including a meeting with the Swedish Government's Youth Committee); *(d)* the role of sports in youth work (football hooliganism and young people's culture, social significance of sports etc.); *(e)* a brick in the wall: youth in the "new" Europe (building a new Europe); *(f)* youth and work in the future (young people and industrial work in the 1990s and young people and technology etc.); and *(g)* developing new youth policies (participation and responsibilities etc.).

National level

New network for youth and students in Canada

Student organizations from across Canada met in Toronto in August 1990 to examine the role of students and youth in international development. That meeting, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, led to the creation of the Canadian Network of Students and Youth for International Development. The Network aims to increase

and support the participation of members in international development, to help members lobby on governmental policies and to provide information on development relevant to students and youth. Responsibility for coordination was assumed by the Association of Students for International Development of Quebec at Université Laval. That group is assisted by an advocacy committee run by the Global Development Network at the University of Toronto and by a fund-raising committee run by representatives from other universities in western Canada. In order to consolidate the network, the contact and involvement of other student and youth organizations is most welcome.

For information, contact: Canadian Network of Students and Youth for International Development, Local 6125, Pavillon Bonenfant, Université Laval Quebec, PQ GIK 7P4 Canada.

All-China Youth Federation and All-China Student Federation

The seventh session of the National Committee of the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF), held from 23 to 28 August 1990 at Beijing, was attended by 661 members, including representatives of various countries and trades, and guest youth representatives from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Province. The 21st National Congress of the All-China Student Federation (ACSF) was held from 19 to 23 September 1990 in Beijing and attended by 470 representatives of institutes of higher education and secondary schools in 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions (excluding Taiwan Province) and representatives of students studying in France, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. Reports and resolutions were adopted by both meetings. ACYF decided to set up a fund to encourage and support the training of young people among its National Committee members, including financing inventions and proposals for development projects and design of research programmes in art, literature, education and theory. ACSF adopted a resolution to set up a fund to encourage student participation in extra-curricular scientific and technological activities. The results of the elections at both meetings were: for the 7th National Committee of ACYF, Liu Yandong as President and Yu Guilin as Secretary-General; and for the 21st National Congress of ACSF: Yang Yue of Qinghua University as President and Chen Wei as Vice-President.

For further information, see: ACYF Information, September and December 1990, 10 Qianmen Dongdajie, Beijing 100051, China.

Western Samoa National Youth Council

During the past year, rural youth seminars and workshops were held by the Western Samoa National Youth Council (WSNYC) in twelve districts of the country. The workshops were geared to the improvement of agricultural, simple engineering and home economic skills. The seminars aimed to facilitate young people's knowledge of management and administration. Both seminars and workshops were part of efforts of WSNYC to promote the participation of youth in national economic development and provide young people with practical development skills. The Council reported that equipment for agricultural projects is badly needed, as are tools for training in simple engineering, cabinet making and carving. Cyclone Ofa made it necessary to readjust plans in 1990. The cyclone brought fierce wind, heavy rainfall and damaging waves, striking all the islands of the Western Samoa group and causing severe suffering. The Council has, however, mobilized member youth organizations to assist in recovery efforts. Short-term crops such as sweet corn, cassava, taro and banana have been planted.

For further information, contact: Maanaima Aloalü, Executive Secretary, National Youth Council, c/o Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Apia, Western Samoa.

Editor's note

The *Youth Information Bulletin* is published three times a year by the United Nations Office at Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA), Youth Policies and Programmes Unit, in English, French and Spanish. The *Bulletin* serves as a major channel of communications between youth and the United Nations system. It provides an information exchange service to youth and to governmental youth ministries and departments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations concerned with youth matters and non-governmental youth organizations.

All information in the *Bulletin* may be used for any purpose. However, an acknowledgement should be made of the source.

The Editor of the *Youth Information Bulletin* welcomes articles on youth policies and programmes, as well as information on youth conferences and publications. As the *Bulletin* is prepared in English at the beginning of March, July and November each year, contributions should reach the Youth Policies and Programmes Unit by the middle of February, June or October. Such contributions should be sent to:

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P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna
Austria

CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL YOUTH MEETINGS: 1991*

Date	*Title/activity*	*Venue*	*Contact*
17-20 January	Conference of National Youth Committees	Vienna, Austria	Council of European National Youth Committees 8 Avenue des Courses B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
18 January	Preparatory Liaison Group, Geneva Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations	Vienna, Austria	R. M. Egerth, Convenor International Christian Youth Exchange Liechtensteinstrasse 20/9 A-1090 Vienna, Austria
28 January-1 February (postponed: new date not yet fixed)	International Conference on Youth Tourism	New Delhi, India	World Tourist Organization Capitan Haya 42 E-28020 Madrid, Spain
31 January	Vienna NGO Committee on Youth	Vienna, Austria	R. Philipp, Chairman Schlossgasse 14 A-3423 St. Andrä-Wördern Austria
2-5 February	Seventh General Assembly: Pre-Assembly Youth Event	Canberra, Australia	Youth Office World Council of Churches 150 route de Ferney P.O. Box 2100 CH-1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland
11-20 February	United Nations Commission for Social Development, Working Group on the Priority Theme of Youth	Vienna, Austria	Youth Policies and Programmes Unit UNOV/CSDHA P.O. Box 500 A-1400 Vienna, Austria
15-17 February	International Youth Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention	Lahore, Pakistan	Youth Council for Anti-Narcotics (YOCFAN) 29/8/KOT, Khawaja Saeed Lahore 9, Pakistan
1 March	Preparatory Liaison Group, Geneva Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations	Vienna, Austria	R. M. Egerth, Convenor International Christian Youth Exchange Liechtensteinstrasse 20/9 A-1090 Vienna, Austria

*Includes meetings scheduled for January, February and March 1991.

Date	Title/activity	Venue	Contact
18-19 March	**Preparatory Committee for the 1991 European Meeting of National Unions of Students**	**Bratislava, Czecho-slovakia**	**Sarah Adams, Director, European Student Information Bureau Liechtensteinstrasse 13 A-1090 Vienna, Austria**
20-22 March	**Seminar on Student Communication, Cooperation and Information**	**Vienna, Austria**	**Sarah Adams, Director, European Student Information Bureau Liechtensteinstrasse 13 A-1090 Vienna, Austria**
21-24 March	**XVII General Assembly of the Council of European National Youth Committees**	**Dublin, Ireland**	**National Youth Council of Ireland 3 Montague Street Dublin 2, Ireland**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-Up in the Field of Youth. A set of guidelines endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985 in honour of the International Youth Year: Participation, development, peace. Available in English, French and Spanish.

Policies and programmes involving young people: Participation, development, peace. Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/422). Annual survey of youth policies and programmes for review by the General Assembly. Included are sections on: global actions to the year 2000 and beyond; activities of Member States, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna and other organizations of the United Nations system; channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations; activities of the Institute of HOPE '87 and an evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth: Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 November 1989. Report of a meeting held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (in Bangkok, Thailand, from 8 to 12 November 1989). The meeting was organized by the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development with substantive support from UNOV/CSDHA in cooperation with ESCAP. The report contains recommendations for action and information on organizational and other aspects of the meeting, and summaries of country experiences and of discussions. Available in English.

Report of Consultative Meeting on International, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes: Pattaya, Thailand, 2-5 November 1989. Report of a meeting held at Pattaya, Thailand, from 2 to 5 November 1989 organized by UNOV/CSDHA in association with ESCAP. The report contains recommendations on how to improve the coordination process in order to make it more effective and responsive to the needs of Member States to strengthen their respective youth policies and programmes. The report also includes information on the organization of work and on the general discussion of the meeting. Available in English.

Directory of Selected International and Regional Youth and Youth Related Organizations. The Directory was compiled by UNOV/CSDHA based on information received by February 1988 from a selected number of youth organizations which cooperate with the United Nations youth programme. Fifty-two organizations are profiled. Available in English, French and Spanish.

Copies of the publications may be obtained free of charge by writing to: Youth Policies and Programmes Unit, UNOV/CSDHA, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

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